



## State of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations GUBERNATORIAL PROCLAMATION

### Falling Prevention Awareness Day

**WHEREAS**, over 14% of Rhode Islanders are 65 years of age or older; and

**WHEREAS**, it is estimated that one third of seniors over the age of 65 and half over the age of 80 will fall each year; and

**WHEREAS**, falls are the leading cause of injury-related deaths, hospitalizations, and emergency department visits among Rhode Islanders 65 and older; and

**WHEREAS**, falls and the fear of falling can lead to depression and hopelessness, loss of mobility and loss of independence for older adults; and

**WHEREAS**, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention estimated in 2000, direct medical costs of falls totaled over \$19 billion; and


**WHEREAS**, injuries from falls are a preventable community health problem; and


**WHEREAS**, the Rhode Island Falls Injury Prevention Coalition, including more than 30 organizations from across the state, is working to increase awareness of this issue, promote multi-disciplinary strategies to prevent falls, and encourage Rhode Islanders to protect those who are at increased risk of falling; and

**NOW, THEREFORE, I, Lincoln D. Chafee**, Governor of the State of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations, do hereby proclaim September 22, 2012 as Falling Prevention Awareness Day in Rhode Island, and encourage all state residents to recognize the importance of this month.



Given under my hand and the great seal of the State of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations, this 5<sup>th</sup> day of July, 2012

  
Lincoln D. Chafee  
Governor

  
A. Ralph Mollis  
Secretary of State